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RECENT LITERATURE.

PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE'S *LES HABITANTS DE SURINAME*.¹
 —The contents of this luxurious and costly volume will prove highly interesting not to the ethnologist only, for it far exceeds the scope of his special line of research, but to the general public as well. The types of humanity which were exposed to public view at the Amsterdam Colonial Exhibition portrayed so faithfully a portion of the Dutch Guiana population that a partial study of these was rendered feasible in spite of the enormous distance separating them from their native country. The mode of anthropologic investigation followed by the Prince is sketched by him in concise language in the preface, and his methods for gaining an insight into the habits, customs, institutions and languages of a people are detailed at length. He divides that country into three dissimilar geographic belts: the coast marsh, the savanna and the primeval forest of the interior. The history of Guiana colonization is first passed in review; the main part of the volume then opens with a sketch of the Indian population, with another of the sylvan Negro, and another of the sedentary Negro, the whole profusely illustrated by full-face and profile photo-engravings of the human subjects exhibited at Amsterdam. Colored plates illustrating various manufactures and divers objects of interest for the study of these populations are added. The book divides *the Indians* into three sections: the Kalina or Carib, the Warrau and the Arowak. Though in contact with Europeans for longer than a century, they have retained many of their aboriginal characteristics. No Indian of the *wild* interior tribes had been brought to the Amsterdam exhibition, and hence these were omitted from the description in detail. The coast Indians do not count over 800 individuals now; they assimilate with difficulty and tend to disappear under the funest influence of fire-water and disease. The chapter following this deals with customs, habits and beliefs of the Indians, and entirely rests on personal or otherwise trustworthy information. The singular custom of the couvade or male childbed is alluded to at length and an explanation offered. Heretofore our information upon the large class of runaway slaves ("nègres marrons"), or descendants of such, was very limited, but here new points are presented in logical order and profusion. These escaped "Negroes of the bush" who, for more than a century back in time, settled along the large rivers descending from the interior, and exulting in their newly-gained freedom, often made raids upon the plantations, are first alluded to in the pages of the "Lettres Edifiantes." It appears that there are now about 8000 of them, divided locally

¹ *Les Habitants de Suriname. Notes recueillies à l'Exposition coloniale d'Amsterdam en 1883.* Paris, imprimerie de Quentin, 1884. Gr. fol. 227 pp., 2 cartes et 72 planches.

into Aucaners, Bekoes, Moesingas, Saramacanan and Bonis. Their peculiar beliefs and customs, upon which the Prince's volume expatiates at length, are clearly of African origin and extremely curious. Besides the *takitaki* or Negro-English jargon of Suriname (from "*talkie-talkie*"), each local sept uses special terms of African origin, and the majority also converse in the native African tongue. The *sedentary Negroes* subdivide into plantation Negroes and city Negroes, these latter forming forty-seven per cent of the whole colonial population. Specimens of the *takitaki* jargon are appended.

A sequel to this instructive volume is announced by the author himself, and we wish it may be presented to the studious public at an early day.—*A. Pinart.*

BERGEN'S DEVELOPMENT THEORY.¹—This little book is designed to present to the ordinary reader a brief summary of the evolution theory. The task is fairly well done, as the facts and theory are set forth in an attractive way, and from a varied and wide point of view.

It is just the sort of book one would give to a boy or girl, a farmer or mechanic who wanted to know what evolution means, and perhaps older people and those who have graduated from our colleges a generation ago before the doctrine became a part of ordinary scientific teaching, will find in its pages just the sort of information they want.

The facts are correctly stated, and so are the inferences. We think, however, known facts do not support the enormous antiquity ascribed to man, viz., "over two and a half million years." We think these figures are beyond those of the "best authorities." It is better in books intended for popular use to give under rather than over statements. Also the ape-like characters of the Neanderthal skull are perhaps over stated. As we understand it, Wyman found quite as brutish a skull in the Indian mounds of Florida. The evidence has yet to be afforded that the earliest known race of man in Europe was any lower than the lowest existing savages. Such evidence, may however, be forthcoming any day.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Baird, S. F.—Report of Professor S. F. Baird, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. 1883. From the author.

Abbe, C.—An account of the progress in meteorology in the year 1883. Ext. Smith. rep., 1883. From the author.

Dana, E. S.—An account of the progress in mineralogy in the year 1883. Ext. idem. From the author.

Farlow, W. G.—An account of the progress in botany in the year 1883. Ext. id. From the author.

¹ *The Development Theory.* A brief statement for general readers. By JOSEPH Y. BERGEN, Jr., and FANNY D. BERGEN. Boston, Lee & Shepard, 1884. 12mo, pp. 240.